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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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Agenda item 5

PRIORITY THEMES

Algeria* and China: draft resolution

Women and development

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/174 of 22 December 1992, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/15 of 24 May 1990 and 1992/53 of 31 July 1992 and Commission resolutions 34/3 of 8 March 1990, 35/7 of 8 March 1991 and 36/5 of 20 March 1992 and 37/6 of 25 March 1993,

Reaffirming the principles contained in the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986,

Convinced that the effective mobilization of women is an essential element in achieving the objectives of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 1/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex.

Aware that the slow progress in the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies as related to development necessitates that urgent action be taken by all the parties concerned,

Aware also of the need to recognize the importance of the gender perspective in all areas of social, economic and political life in order to achieve a balanced division of roles,

Welcoming the Vienna Declaration adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, 3/ in which the Conference stressed the importance of the integration and full participation of women as both agents and beneficiaries in the development process,

Reaffirming that the full integration of women in development, both as agents and beneficiaries, should concern all sectors of society,

Convinced that improving the distribution between both sexes of the tasks related to productive and reproductive functions is an essential strategy for sustainable development and has to be reflected in the implementation of concrete national development policies, programmes and projects,

Further convinced that an enabling international economic environment and the international community have fundamental roles in the creation of conditions that allow women to achieve full integration in development,

Deeply concerned about the slow progress in the improvement of the situation of women in developing countries and the worsening situation of women in some areas, particularly in the least developed countries,

Expressing special concern about women living in extreme poverty in rural as well as in urban areas,

Expressing deep concern that, despite the fact that poor rural women contribute to all aspects of the well-being of rural families and account for more than half the food production of developing countries, they are often the most vulnerable and disadvantaged group in society,

Welcoming the holding of the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women at Geneva on 25 and 26 February 1992 and the adoption by the Summit of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women, 4/

Aware of the need for women, as agents and beneficiaries of development, to be empowered to define their own means of development, as well as of the need to guarantee them access to such services as education, health, maternity and child care and credit so that they may be fully integrated into the development process,

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3/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

4/ A/47/308-E/1992/97, annex.

Keeping in mind the fact that the impact of structural adjustment policies, adverse terms of trade and the growing foreign debt on developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, continues to have negative effects on efforts for the full integration of women in development,

1. Urges Governments to foster women's full and equal participation in the elaboration, planning, execution and evaluation of development policies and projects so that they can be agents and beneficiaries of development;

2. Also urges Governments to adopt policies to promote economic development that will ensure the full integration of women's needs and concerns;

3. Further urges Governments to include gender perspectives in all the guidelines for economic and social policies and to increase their capacities and capabilities in gender-responsive and gender-sensitive planning of development programmes;

4. Urges Governments to foster and ensure access of women to income-generating activities as a means of stimulating economic independence, a basic requirement for women's self-sufficiency;

5. Urges Governments to identify their own quantitative and qualitative national targets in such fields as education and training, employment, income generation, health, and women in public life with a view to the full integration of women in development, and to commit adequate resources to women and development programmes;

6. Recommends that Governments create and strengthen national machinery for the advancement of women, placing it at the highest level, and that they ensure the greater involvement of such machinery in the political, economic and social planning processes by providing it with adequate resources and qualified personnel;

7. Also recommends that Governments, intergovernmental organizations, international donor agencies and non-governmental organizations further develop gender-oriented research in all development areas, particularly by the involvement of national research institutes, and promote specific measures in the field of training in gender analysis programmes for development decision makers and the relevant staff involved in policy and programme areas, in addition to implementation processes;

8. Calls upon Governments, intergovernmental organizations, international financial and other relevant institutions and non-governmental organizations to promote measures to stimulate the economies of developing countries and the full integration of women in the development process and to provide financial services on the basis of equal opportunity for women and men, while avoiding adverse effects on their well-being, particularly that of vulnerable groups;

9. Calls upon donor Governments and international financial institutions to provide adequate and timely support for the efforts of the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, in reducing the negative

effects of the external debt burden, structural adjustment policies and adverse terms of trade, with a view to integrating women in mainstream development;

10. Urges all States to work for the achievement of the goals endorsed in the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women 4/ and all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the goals of the Geneva Declaration in carrying out their programmes, and invites the relevant governing bodies to consider the adoption of specific measures, within their respective fields of competence, with a view to meeting the special needs of rural women in the light of the Geneva Declaration;

11. Appeals to Governments, donor countries, international organizations and appropriate national and international financial institutions to make greater efforts to support the establishment of cooperative rural banks and other development-related institutions to assist women, particularly those engaged in small- and medium-scale productive activities;

12. Requests Member States to make provision for specific training programmes for women in rural and urban areas aimed at developing their technical and management skills, and to give financial support, fellowships, or both, for training women, particularly those from developing countries, in science, technology, agriculture and management;

13. Calls upon Governments, donor countries and relevant international organizations to take further coordinated measures to facilitate the access of women, particularly poor rural and urban women, to basic education and health and child-care facilities;

14. Requests the Secretary-General, in reporting on the implementation of the present resolution in his biennial monitoring report on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, to include policy and programme recommendations on the basis of gender analysis;

15. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the issues of women and development and of the integration of women in development programmes are an integral part of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.